

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge, said air-permeable filter comprising:
 - a laminate comprising:
 - at least one porous material layer comprising at least one resin selected from the group consisting of fluororesin and polyolefin resin; and
 - at least one air-permeable substrate layer having a tensile strength of 1 MPa or more; and having an outer surface bonded to said at least one porous material layer; and one of a heat weld, ultrasonic weld, vibrational weld, and adhesive for bonding said at least one air-permeable substrate layer to said at least one porous material layer,
 - wherein a Gurley number of said air-permeable filter is less than 100 sec/100 ml.
2. (Currently Amended) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said at least one air-permeable substrate layer comprises one of a nonwoven fabric, woven fabric, net, mesh, sponge, foam, porous metal, and metal mesh ~~the air permeability of said air-permeable substrate is 300 sec/100 ml or less as represented by Gurley number.~~
3. (Previously Amended) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein at least one layer of said laminate has been rendered water-repellent and oil-repellent.
4. (Previously Amended) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said porous material comprises a polytetrafluoroethylene and said air-permeable substrate comprises a ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene.
5. (Currently Amended) An ink cartridge comprising:
 - a case for receiving an ink;
 - at least one air vent in said case; and
 - an air-permeable filter provided in said at least one air vent, said air-permeable filter comprising:

a laminate comprising:

at least one porous material layer comprising at least one resin selected from the group consisting of fluororesin and polyolefin resin; and

at least one air-permeable substrate layer having a tensile strength of 1 MPa or more, and having an outer surface bonded to said at least one porous material layer;
and

one of a heat weld, ultrasonic weld, vibrational weld, and adhesive for bonding said at least one air-permeable substrate layer to said at least one porous material layer,

wherein a Gurley number of said air-permeable filter is less than 100 sec/100 ml.

6. (Previously Amended) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the tensile strength of the air-permeable substrate is from 1 Mpa to 1,500 Mpa.

7. (Previously Amended) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 6, wherein the tensile strength of the air-permeable substrate is from 3 MPa to 500 Mpa.

8. (Previously Amended) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 2, wherein the Gurley number of the air-permeable filter is from 0.1 sec/100 ml to less than 100 sec/100 ml.

9. (Previously Amended) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 8, wherein the Gurley number of the air-permeable filter is from 0.5 sec/100 ml to less than 100 sec/100 ml.

10. (Previously Amended) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the average diameter of the pores in the porous material is 10 μm or less.

11. (Previously Amended) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the average diameter of the pores in the porous material is from 0.01 μm to 5 μm .

12. (Previously Amended) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the porous material is 2 μm or more.
13. (Previously Amended) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 12, wherein the thickness of the porous material is from 10 μm to 1,000 μm .
14. (Currently Amended) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 4, wherein the viscometric average molecular weight of the ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene is 300,000 or more.
15. (Previously Amended) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 14, wherein the viscometric average molecular weight of the ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene is from 500,000 to 10,000,000.
16. (Previously Amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 5, wherein the porous material of the air-permeable filter faces an inner space of the ink cartridge.
17. (Currently Amended) An air-permeable filter comprising:
 - at least one porous material layer comprising at least one of a fluororesin and polyolefin resin; and
 - at least one air-permeable substrate layer having a tensile strength of 1 MPa or more, and having an outer surface bonded to said at least one porous material layer; and
 - one of a heat weld, ultrasonic weld, vibrational weld, and adhesive for bonding said at least one air-permeable substrate layer to said at least one porous material layer,wherein a Gurley number of said air-permeable filter is less than 100 sec/100 ml.
18. (Previously Added) The air-permeable filter according to claim 17, wherein said air permeable substrate layer comprises ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene.
19. (Previously Added) The air-permeable filter according to claim 17, wherein a Gurley number of the air-permeable filter is from 0.5 sec/100ml to less than 100 sec/100 ml.

20. (Previously Added) The air-permeable filter according to claim 17, wherein said at least one porous material layer is water-repellant and oil-repellant.
21. (Previously Added) The air-permeable filter according to claim 17, wherein said at least one air-permeable substrate layer is water-repellant and oil-repellant.
22. (Previously Added) The air-permeable filter according to claim 17, wherein said at least one porous material layer comprises two porous material layers, and wherein said at least one air permeable substrate layer is formed between said two porous material layers.
23. (Currently Amended) The ink cartridge ~~air-permeable filter~~ according to claim 5 ~~1~~, further comprising:
a cap portion inserted in said at least one air vent,
wherein said air permeable filter is affixed to said cap portion so as to cover said at least one air vent ~~which is connected to said laminate.~~
24. (Currently Amended) The ink cartridge ~~air-permeable filter~~ according to claim 23, further comprising:
one of a heat weld, ~~an ultrasonic weld,~~ a vibrational weld, and an adhesive for affixing said air permeable filter ~~laminate~~ to said cap portion.
25. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 5, wherein said air permeable filter is directly affixed to said case so as to cover said at least one air vent.
26. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 5, wherein said at least one air vent comprises a plurality of air vents, and wherein at least one air vent in said plurality of air vents is not covered by ink in said ink cartridge.
27. (New) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said at least one air-permeable substrate layer comprises a thickness of at least 0.5 mm.

28. (New) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said at least one porous material layer comprises calcined polytetrafluoroethylene.
29. (New) The air-permeable filter according to claim 22, wherein said at least one porous material layer comprises a first porous material layer, and a second porous material layer which comprises a material which is different from a material in said first porous material layer.
30. (New) A method of manufacturing an air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge, said method comprising:
providing at least one porous material layer comprising fluororesin; and
laminating at least one air-permeable substrate layer having a tensile strength of 1 MPa or more, on said at least one porous material layer, said laminating comprising one of heat welding, ultrasonic welding, vibrational welding, and applying an adhesive, and
wherein a Gurley number of said air-permeable filter is less than 100 sec/100 ml.
31. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein said applying an adhesive comprises interposing a hot-melt adhesive between said at least one porous material layer and said at least one air-permeable substrate layer to form a laminate, and heating the laminate.
32. (New) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said heat weld comprises a hot-melt adhesive interposed between said at least one porous material layer and said at least one air-permeable substrate layer.
33. (New) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said heat weld comprises a partially-fused portion of said at least one air permeable substrate.
34. (New) The air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said heat weld is formed without an application of substantial pressure.